

# Annual Report 2017

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Superintendence of Cultural Heritage



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI

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SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# 1. Data Management

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## The National Inventory

The Mission Statement of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is to fulfil the duties of the State to ensure the protection and accessibility of Malta's cultural heritage as defined in the Cultural Heritage Act 2002.

Article 7 of the Cultural Heritage Act requires the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to compile a National Inventory of cultural property in the Maltese Islands.

In 2011, the Superintendence started publishing the inventory records on the Government Gazette. Data inputting online of the Cultural Heritage Inventory Management Systems (CHIMS) also proceeded in parallel. During 2016 and 2017, due to other more pressing commitments, the Superintendence was not in a position to publish any new inventory records on the Government Gazette or on CHIMS. At present a total of 2,412 sites and monuments have been published by the Superintendence on the Government Gazette, while 4,087 records have been recorded on CHIMS, as shown on the following tables.

<b>Sites published on Government Gazette by Theme</b>	<b>Number of records</b>
Historical, military and archaeological sites	25
Historical and Archaeological sites	35
Knights Fortifications	389
Scheduled Property	125
Chapels and Niches	1,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,412</b>

<b>Records uploaded on CHIMS by Theme</b>	<b>Total</b>
Heritage Sites	2492
Archaeological Interventions	10
Artefacts	1568
Guardianship Deeds	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,087</b>

## 2. Land Use and Planning Matters

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### Consultations regarding land use and development applications

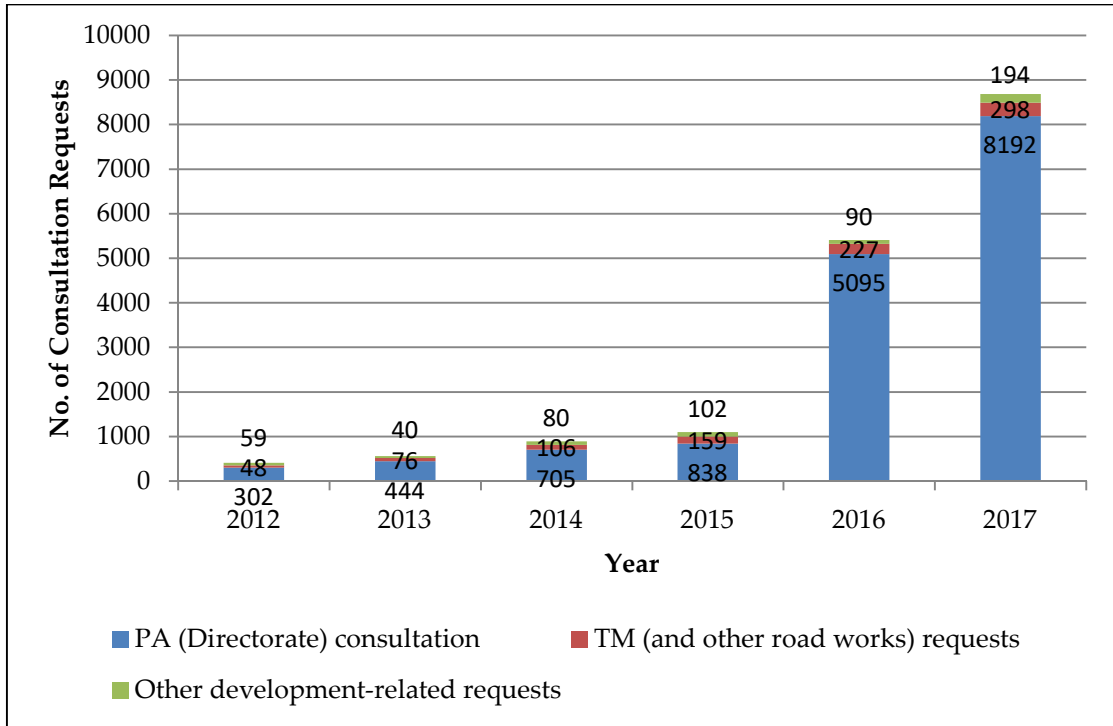
**Legal Changes in the Planning Process** – The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is a designated statutory external consultee to the Planning Authority regarding land use and development applications. The assessment of such applications and the provision of the statutory consultations required by Planning Authority is currently the single most onerous commitment of the Superintendence.

This regulatory and consultative function of the Superintendence on development applications is established in the first instance by Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. This function has however been extensively redefined and expanded as a result of the newly enacted Development Planning Act of 2016, as implemented by Legal Notice 162 of 2016, Development Planning (Procedure for Applications and their Determination) Regulations.

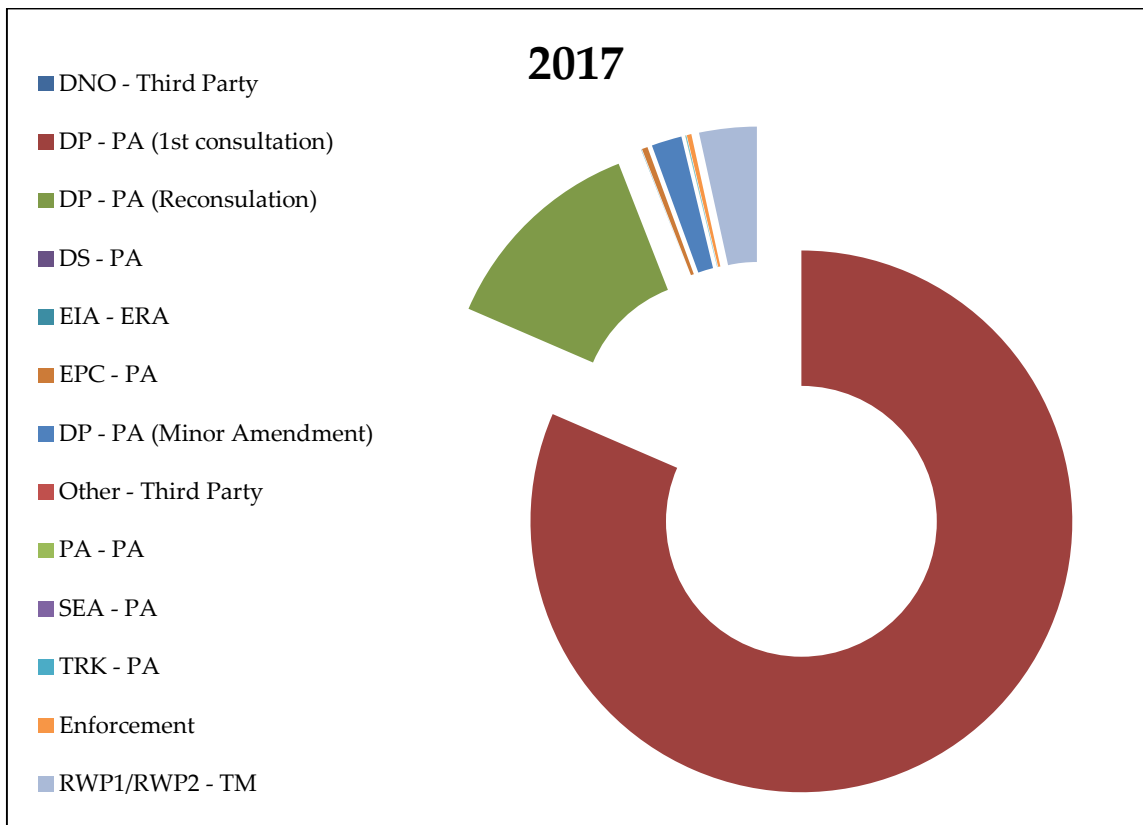
The legal reform of the Planning Authority and of its procedures has also resulted in an important change to the role and functions of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (CHAC). Under the former planning legislation the CHAC was an internal body to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and provided its advice on cultural heritage to the Planning Directorate.

Since May of 2016 the CHAC has started being chaired by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, and it has now assumed an advisory role directly to the Superintendence. The members of the CHAC were confirmed by the Minister of Justice, Culture and Local Government on 2 May 2016 by means of a note published in the Government Gazette of 6 May 2016.

**Changes to the Planning Procedures** - The legal changes outlined above has resulted in a drastic surge in 2016 in the number of planning applications referred to the Superintendence. The number of development applications received by the Superintendence has increased from the 1,099 cases registered in 2015, to a total of 5,440 in 2016, to a total of 8,708 in 2017, as shown on the table below. This almost sharp increase was a direct result of the coming into force of the new planning regulations since May 2016.



Over 96% of the development consultation requests received in 2017 originated from the Planning Authority, with the remaining 4% originating from Transport Malta and other third parties as shown in more detail in the table below.



<b>Type of Consultation Received</b>	<b>2017</b>
DNO – Third Party	
DP – PA (1 <sup>st</sup> consultation)	7095
DP – PA (Re-consultation)	1097
DS – PA	0
EIA – ERA	1
EPC – PA	30
DP – PA (Minor Amendment)	158
Other – Third Party	1
PC – PA	1
SEA – PA	0
TRK – PA	3
Enforcement	24
RWP1/RWP2 – TM	298

Planning applications referred to the Superintendence are analysed for potential physical and visual impacts to both archaeological and architectural monuments. Possible negative impacts on UNESCO World Heritage Sites and monuments are also assessed. Superintendence case officers are legally obliged to fully assess each application and issue the requested response within thirty calendar days of the publication date, or fifteen days from the receipt of the PA consultation letter, depending on the type of development application or on the stage reached by a given application in the planning process. Within this timeframe the Superintendence officers must fully assess the submitted technical documents, as well as carry out site inspections, meetings with PA officials, architects and developers.

A substantial amount of the development applications referred to the Superintendence in 2017 deal with large-scale projects. Such cases involve either major infrastructural initiatives, as well as conservation and restoration projects on cultural monuments of national importance. Major development applications require a more intensive treatment and response by Superintendence. Detailed discussions and site inspections are regularly carried out with the interested national bodies, including Transport Malta, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Committee, Heritage Malta, Restoration Directorate, Local Councils, and Non-Governmental Organisations as well as with Ministries and government departments.

Some of the main development applications, including major infrastructural or restoration projects, tackled by the Superintendence in 2017 are listed in the following table:

PA No.	Site at	Project Description
PA 00356/17	Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel, Triq Fleur De Lys including site at Triq Vlon tin c/w Triq il-Passju, Birkirkara, Malta	To extend existing Fleur De Lys parish church, including formation of lock-up garages at basement level, to for new sacristy, prayer room, crying room, exhibition room and form access for all at Triq il-Passju and to existing part of church
PA 01189/16	British Building Dock 1, Ix-Xatt ta Bormla, Cospicua (Bormla), Malta	Change of use of disused building know as the British Building (including the police station approved in PA 03623/14) into an educational institution (Class 2C) consisting of the reconstruction of missing original volumes, internal alterations and extensions including the addition of an extra floor
PA 03387/13	British Building Dock 1, Ix-Xatt ta Bormla, Cospicua (Bormla), Malta	Restoration of external facades of the British Building at Dock 1, Bormla
PA 00803/16	The Ritirata, San Salvatore Bastion Area, Triq Joseph Mangion, Floriana, Malta	Proposed galleries to house the Malta International Contemporary Art Space and ancillary spaces including administration offices class 4A and restaurant with kitchen and kiosk class 4D
PA 03337/15	Outer Argotti Gardens, Triq Vincenzo Bugeja c/w Pjazza San Kalcidon c/w Triq Sarria, Floriana, Malta	Rehabilitation of outer Argotti Gardens, including construction of information centre, relocation of toilets, paving works, repairs to walls and pilasters and other works, repairs to walls and pilasters and other works
DNO	Upgrading of Biskuttin Garden and adjacent pavement, Floriana, Malta	Upgrading of Biskuttin Garden and adjacent pavement, Floriana
PA 03807/17	Former ITS Site, Wesghet George Portanier & Wesghet Lewis V. Farrugia, Triq il-Prof's Walter Ganado, Pembroke, Triq il-Prof's. Walter Ganado /, Ix-Xatt ta' San Gorg', San Giljan, Malta	Proposed City Centre multi-use development, including 5 Star Hotel (464 rooms) Class 3B, 162 residences, commercial office space (Class 4A), shopping mall (Class 4B) & restaurants (Class 4C and 4D) and basement car park.
PA 01996/16	United Garage Ltd, 66, Triq il-Gzira c/w Triq ir-Rebħa c/w Triq Tas-Sliema, Gzira, Malta	Proposed extension to high-rise development approved in PA 01505/15 consisting of 5 additional floors to accommodate a total of 5 additional residential units

PA 07964/05	Lazzaretto Complex, Manoel Island, Gzira, Malta	Demolition, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction works and re-use in Lazzaretto Complex. Building to be re-used as casino, offices and residential including underground car park
PA 09407/17	Manoel Island, Griza, Malta	Amendments to PA 02135/94 for the Manoel Island Master Plan including: Change in building configuration and increase in open spaces to achieve a better balance between built-up and open area; Reduction of 8,000 sq.m floor area of already approved development resulting from a decrease in massing, increase in residential component, decrease in commercial component and removal of offices; Re-design of access to Manoel Island and re-organisation of parking areas and berthing facilities; Alterations to breakwater to include a Helipad; Restoration of the existing pay office and guard house
PA 05024/16	Sant' Antnin Family Park, Triq il-Latmija, Marsascala, Malta	Construction of football ground and ancillary facilities
PA 05946/16	Buskett Woodlands, Il- Buskett, Siggiewi, Malta	Proposed restoration of existing pathways
DN 00755/17	Ta' Kandja, Siggiewi, Malta	Re-organisation Plan of the academy for disciplined forces and police training grounds, that includes the; demolition of existing buildings, excavation and civil works, construction of internal roads, administration and academic block/s, ancillary facilities, shooting ranges, hard and soft landscaping, together with other general engineering works.
PA 06252/17	Fortina Spa Resort, Ix- Xatt ta Tigne & Triq Censu Xerri, Sliema, Malta	Demolition of existing 4 star hotel and the Spa Wing of the 5 star hotel, and excavation of site. Construction of 3 levels of below ground car parking; construction of ground floor retail complex (mix of Class 4B and Class 4C) under a landscaped Public Open Space; and construction of residential complex rising to a maximum of 15 floors above street level. Development also to include complete refurbishment (including internal alternations) of the existing 5 star hotel, the construction of five additional floors on the hotel tower and construction of stepped hotel block rising to 13 floors above the plaza, in the place of the Spa Wing
PA 00595/15	Old University Building & Jesuits Church, St.Paul's Str, Archbishop Str, Merchant Str, Triq San Kristofru, Belt Valletta, Malta	To restore the main facades of the whole block on Merchant Street, Archbishop Street, St Paul Street and St Christopher Street, of the Old University building and Jesuits Church. Proposal includes also the restoration of the facades of the internal yard of the Old University and also the main cupola and roof areas of the Jesuits church.
PA 01399/15	Auberge D'Italie, Triq il- Merkanti, Triq Melita, Triq San Zakkarija, Pjazze De Vallette, Belt Valletta, Malta	Development of MUZA – The National Museum of Fine Arts which includes the restoration, reuse and embellishment of an existing building and its immediate surrounds

PA 03182/16	Palace of the Grandmaster, Triq il-Repubblika c/w Triq l-Arcisqof c/w Triq il-Merkanti c/w Triq it-Teatru l-Antik, Belt Valletta, Malta	Installation of temporary lightweight demountable structures for EU Presidency 2017 (September 2016 to July 2017)
PA 00623/17	Our Lady of Victories Church and Rector's House, Triq Nofs in-Nhar, Belt Valletta, Malta	Restoration of facades, replacement of dangerous ceiling and reconstruction of staircase turret
PA 01207/15	Palazzino, 55, Triq l-Ifran, Belt Valletta, Malta	Change of use from residential to boutique hotel (Class 3A) including wine bar and lounge bar (Class 4C) and restaurant (Class 4D), and internal alternations
PA 02781/15	Mediterranean Conference Centre, Triq il-Mediterran Triq it-Tramuntana, Belt Valletta, Malta	Proposed interventions and alterations to parts of the Mediterranean Conference Centre as described below: Project A: Proposed lifts to access roof to the Mediterranean Conference Centre; Project D: Proposed restoration on the fabric of the Perellos Chapel at the Mediterranean Conference Centre Project H: Proposed alternations to tank room to include emergency exit and re-levelling of flooring at the Mediterranean Conference Centre
PA 05739/16	Biskuttin Area, Floriana, Triton Fountain Square, City Gate Shopping Arcade, Belt Valletta, Malta	Restoration and upgrading works in Triton Fountain Square and Biskuttin Area, including new hard stone paving, traffic re-routing, creation of pedestrian zones, landscaping, lighting schemes, tourist information office, kiosks (10 in numbers class 4B), 2 in number booths (1 taxi & 1 tourist information booth) and other ancillary facilities and to sanction the installation of the flag poles at City Gate
PA 05654/16	Landfront Ditch, Landfront Ditch (part of), St James Bastion, Belt Valletta, Malta	Restoration and upgrading works in the landfront ditch, including new hard stone paved areas and soft landscaped areas, traffic re-routing within the ditch, a new lighting scheme and other ancillary facilities
PA 03215/16	Is-Suq tal-Belt, Triq Merkanti / Triq Felic/ Trid it-Teatru / Triq San Pawl, Belt Valletta, Malta	Proposed rehabilitation and restoration of existing structure to include Class 4B and Class 4D uses, internal and external alternations, to construct three interval levels within the existing volume and servicing arrangements
PA 05493/16	Gozo General Hospital, Triq l-Arcisqof Pietru Pace, Triq Ghajn Qatet, Victoria, Gozo	Demolition of existing structures and construction of 3 storey and 1 recessed floor of medical school (Class 2B as per LN 74/14)



<p>PA 05312/17</p>	<p>Malta Diary Products, Triq l-Imgarr c/w Triq il- Pitkalija c/w Triq il- Magna tal-Halib, Qasam Industrijali, Xewkija, Gozo</p>	<p>Demolition and construction of a multipurpose hub business centre (Class 5A), administrative offices (Class 4A) and restoration of the ex-MDP plant</p>
<p>PA 00258/17</p>	<p>Notre Dame Gate, Triq is-Sur Notre Dame, Bormla, Triq Kottonera, Triq San Dwardu Birgu and Triq Bormla, Zabbar, Malta</p>	<p>Restoration of notre dame gate external fabric, landscaping including formation of part of the original ditch, and installation of panoramic glazed lift and viewing platform</p>

### 3. Cultural Heritage Surveillance

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- New monitoring cases for 2017: 417  
Compared to 2016 new cases: 271

Sharp increase continued to increase especially since 2013 to 2014 the difference was only of six cases more in 2014.

Cases brought forward from 2016: 426

- Registered monitors for 2017:  
Full-time: 14  
Part-time: 10

The Superintendence is responsible for the surveillance and monitoring of ongoing development works. The objective of surveillance is to ensure that construction of works do not, either wilfully or by accident, result in the damaging of historic structures or of archaeological remains.

The scale of these interventions ranges from the surveillance of large infrastructural projects lasting many months, to small scale domestic interventions requiring only a few days of monitoring.

When managing monitoring cases, the Superintendence prepares and issues terms of reference for surveillance and investigation works, directs the surveillance or archaeological investigation on construction sites, approves and supervises the engagement of freelance monitors, reviews and archives the results obtained, and reports back to Planning Authority as and when required. These cases also often require multiple field inspections and meetings with architects, contractors and developers.

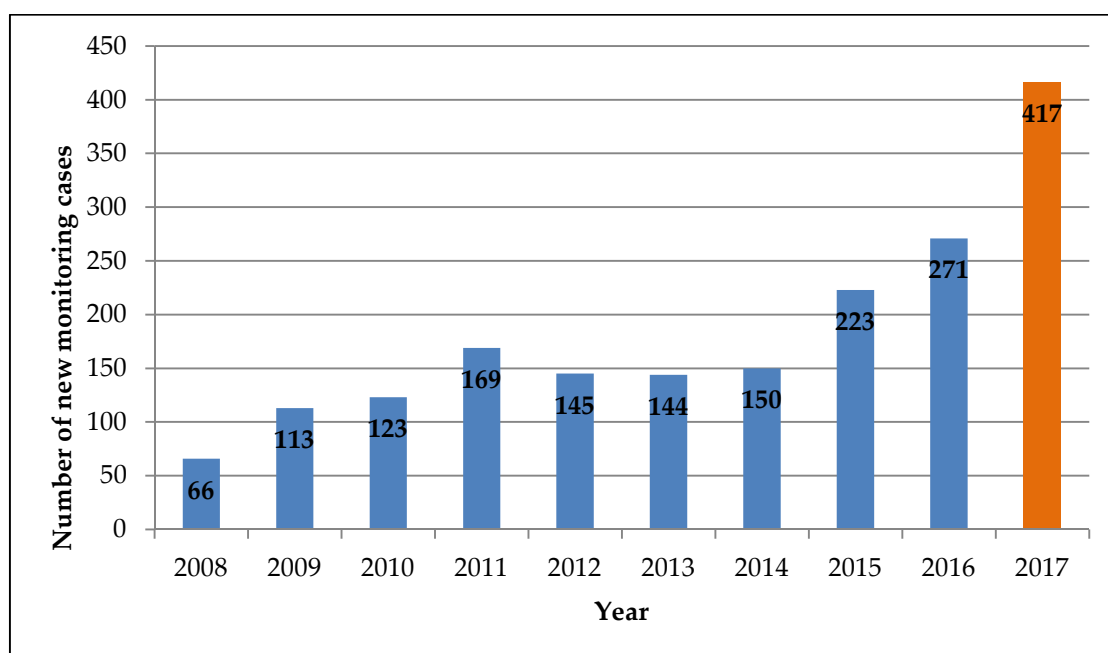
The number of new monitoring cases handled by the Superintendence in 2017 continued to see a sharp increase compared to the previous year. 418 cases received in 2017, against the 271 cases of 2015.

Surveillance and archaeological monitoring is conducted by the Superintendence in partnership with a number of freelance professionals. Developers can employ a freelance archaeologist directly without having to pay any additional fees to the Superintendence. The archaeologist engaged will work according to the detailed

Terms of Reference prepared by the Superintendence. The archaeologist will carry out these Terms of Reference under the direction of the Superintendence. The monitor is also bound to report back any discoveries of potential cultural heritage value.

The reports of the monitors permit the Superintendence to intervene on the construction site to assess the discovery and decide what level of protection is required for the reported discoveries. A decision is also taken on the level of archaeological recording required on a case by case basis.

The Superintendence also publishes and periodically reviews a register of persons who can provide local developers with archaeological monitoring and related services. This register is accessible on the website of the Superintendence, together with a number of guidance documents defining the procedures and standards to be followed in monitoring cases.



In 2017 the number of registered freelance archaeological monitors registered with the Superintendence has decreased slightly. 14 registered full-time monitors in 2017, against the 16 of 2016.

The results of some of the major archaeological monitoring projects undertaken in 2017 are described in Section 6.

## 4. Museums and Sites

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### Guardianship Deeds

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage enters into and supervises Guardianship Deeds for the management of state owned cultural heritage properties. According to the Cultural Heritage Act, Guardianship Deeds can be concluded with Non-Governmental Organisation and with Local Councils following necessary authorisation of the Minister and the Committee of Guarantee.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is the public entity legally entrusted with the management and regulation of this process. Guardianship Deeds are management agreements that are specifically focused on ensuring the well-being and care of cultural heritage property. Deed are examined and considered on the basis of stringent conservation and management requirements. These requirements entail technical conservation and management policy documents which are attached to the Guardianship Deeds and submitted for ministerial and cabinet approval.

Guardianship Deeds are of mutual benefit both to Government, as the owner of historical property, as well for the NGO or Local Council that holds the property in guardianship. However the ultimate beneficiaries of the partnership are:

- (i) the historical property itself which receives professional care, maintenance and management
- (ii) the local and visiting communities that are awarded the opportunity to visit a historical building that would otherwise not be accessible

A Guardianship Deed also allows the guardian to make medium to long-term plans and investments on the historical building and its management. The forward planning aspect is in face crucial since a Guardianship Deed is only awarded on the submission of a feasibility study and a management plan by the prospective guardian.

No lease costs are imposed o the guardian when taking over a property. This allows for all generated funds from that property and donations to be invested into the restoration, maintenance, rehabilitation and management needs of the cultural property in guardianship.

Guardianship Deeds also promote the active participation of the community in cultural heritage through voluntary work.

The table below shows the status of the Guardianship Deeds to date.

	<b>Name of Cultural Property</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>Name of Guardian</b>	<b>Year of Signature</b>
1	Qalet Marku Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
2	Għallis Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
3	Red Tower (aka Sta Agatha Tower)	Mellieħa	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
4	Wignacourt Tower	San Pawl il-Baħar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
5	Mamo Tower	Marsaskala	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
6	Santa Maria Tower	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
7	Dwejra Tower	San Lawrenz	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
8	Santa Maria Battery	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
9	Msida Bastion Cemetery	Floriana	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 / Renewed 2013
10	Lascaris War Rooms	Valletta	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2009
11	WWII shelter at 25, Britannia Square	Tarxien	Tarxien Local Council	2009
12	WWII Shelter at Sta Ubaldesca Street	Paola	Fondazzjoni Wirt Paola	2010
13	Couvre Porte Barracks at Vittoriosa (10 rooms at lower level) and underlying WWII shelter	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2011
14	Our Lady of Victory Church	Valletta	Din l-Art Helwa	2011
15	Wied Iz-Żurrieq Tower	Qrendi	Din l-Art Helwa	2013
16	Fort Rinella	Kalkara	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
17	Madliena Tower and adjacent structures, Room off Mediterranean Street and Bridge and Weir	Pembroke	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
18	Tower at Triq il-Wiesgħa	Xagħjra	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
19	Three World War II Pill Boxes: Reserve Post R15 (Naxxar), AB1 Beach post (Mellieħa) and RAO beach post (Kalkara)	Naxxar Mellieħa Kalkara	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
20	Notre Dame Gate	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
21	St. Thomas Tower	Marsaskala	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016

## **Collaboration with Heritage Malta and surveillance of major projects**

The Superintendence has a close and constant rapport with Heritage Malta, particularly with respect to the various capital projects being undertaken on the archaeological and historical monuments in their keep. These projects involve large scale restoration and conservation initiatives, as well as the introduction of new infrastructural works to improve the visitors' experience on these sites.

The Superintendence has assisted Heritage Malta officers by providing technical back-up and guidance was required. The Superintendence also carries out regular surveillance of the works carried out on these sites of national importance to ensure that potentially negative impacts are removed or successfully mitigated. In situations which require some form of archaeological investigation or documentation, the Superintendence provides Heritage Malta with the required technical Terms of Reference and directs the investigation jointly with the relevant curatorial officers.

- **The National Museum of Fine Arts (MUZA)** - The restoration, reuse and embellishment of an existing building and its immediate surrounds

## 5. Movement of Goods

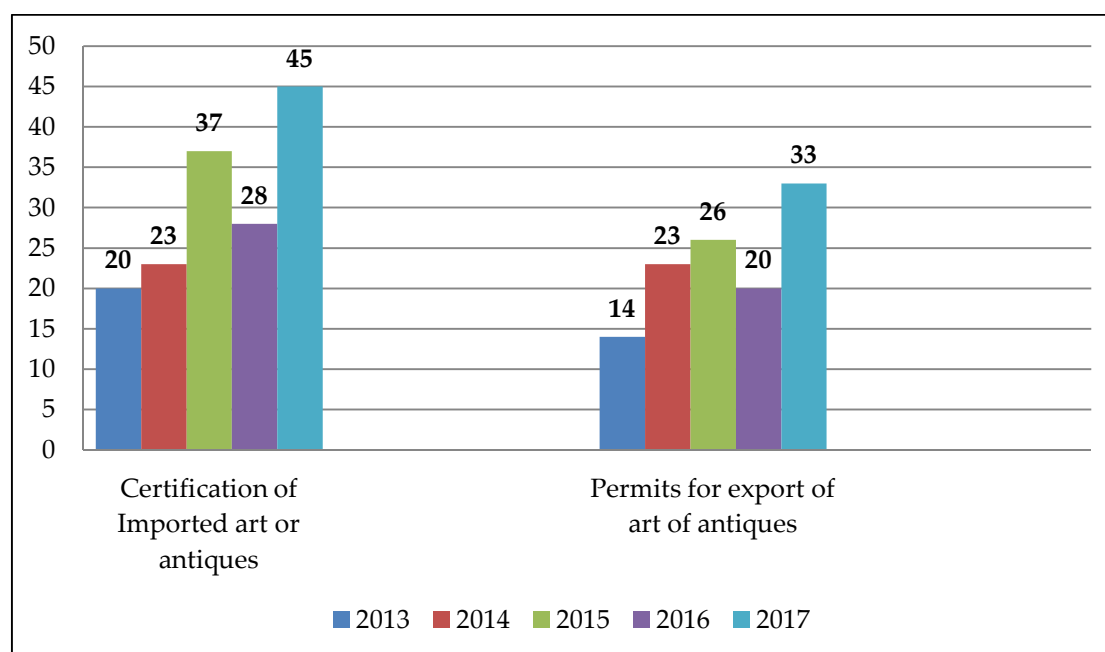
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### Import and Export of Cultural Goods

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regulates the import and export of cultural goods moving between Malta and EU Member States, as well as from, or to non-EU countries. These cases are referred to the Superintendence by the Customs Department or by Malta Post.

The Superintendence has continued to fulfill its role in monitoring the export or movement of cultural heritage items from Maltese territory, be this export to a country within the European Union or outside of it. In keeping with long-standing practice, the Superintendence also reviews the export or movement of “personal items”, to ensure that these items do not include cultural heritage items.

In the course of 2017, the Superintendence reviewed 402 cases of export or movement, in which cases the exporter had declared that no item of cultural heritage was being exported. The number of cases marked a slight increase on previous years, being only 6 cases more than those processed in 2016 (396 cases) and 22 cases more than cases processed in 2015 (380 cases).



As stated at law, the export of cultural heritage items from Malta requires permission from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. In the course of 2017, the Superintendence issued permission for export of cultural heritage items in 33 cases. Of these 33 cases, 25 cases were for the export of contemporary or decorative art.

None of the cases treated required inspection of the items, since adequate information for assessment had been made available to the Superintendence.

The 33 permissions granted in 2017 marked an increase over permissions as issued in 2016 (20 cases) and over 2015, when a total of 26 permissions was granted.

The Superintendence is also called upon to inspect and certify cultural heritage items that are imported from outside the European Union. This process is initiated by the importer in order to comply with Customs procedures.

In the course of 2017, the Superintendence inspected and certified imported cultural heritage items in 45 cases. These 45 cases mark a considerable increase on the 28 cases inspected in 2016, and even an increase on the 37 cases inspected in 2015.

These inspections of imported items generated revenue of € 25,413.29. This was a marked increase when compared to the € 4,730.54 collected for import inspections in 2016, but is very close to the € 25,901.54 collected in 2015.

These noticeable, but unpredictable, spikes in revenue are indicative of the exceptional import of prestigious and costly items in the course of a given year.



## 6. Cultural Heritage Research

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One of the key functions of the Superintendence is to regulate and promote cultural heritage and scientific research in Malta. This function is carried out in collaboration with a range of Maltese and international partner organisations and colleagues.

### **FRAGSUS (Fragility and Sustainability in Island Environments: Cultural Change and Collapse in Prehistory) – Project Funded by the European Research Council**

The fifth year of this five-year project has been dedicated to carrying out a variety of data collection and research exercises, both in the field and in museum collections. Data collection teams were composed of different specialists and university students drawn from a variety of institutions: the University of Belfast (project coordinator), the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, University of Cambridge, the University of Malta and Heritage Malta.

The scientific objective of the project is to understand the type of environment that existed on the Maltese Islands from the Neolithic period to later times. The project seeks to understand environmental stress in small islands.

In 2017 FRAGSUS research included:

- Osteological data collection and studies of the large collection of human skeletal remains from the 1980s excavation at Ċirku tax-Xagħra, Gozo

The analysis of the osteological data gathered together with publication related in this area of study will be finalised in 2018.

### **Other Major Archaeological Interventions by the Superintendence in 2017**

Throughout the year the Superintendence has followed a wide range of archaeological interventions. Most of these interventions were associated with the supervision and monitoring of ongoing land development works, statistics for which are presented above. The following are some on the principal of these archaeological interventions.

**Site at, 19, Triq il-Katakombi, Rabat, Malta**

Archaeological investigations in relation to a proposed development uncovered several cultural features including a possible shelter, catacomb and a number of tomb shafts. Other remains at this site included long rectangular trenches possibly connected to agricultural activities.

**Site at, 49, Triq Indri Borg (previously), Triq Doni l-Qadima, Rabat**

During an archaeological evaluation for the construction of a proposed swimming pool, stratified deposits and structural remains of an ancient date were uncovered. Of particular interest is a pit from which domestic pottery shards, animal bone and sea shells were retrieved, and two whole pottery vessels from the topsoil. A full investigation and documentation of the site is being completed. These remains were preserved in situ.

**Site at, Plot 10, Triq il-Katakombi, Salina, Naxxar**

During an archaeological evaluation of an un-built plot proposed for development, a stretch of cart ruts were uncovered. A full investigation and documentation of the site was carried out. The cart ruts were preserved in situ.

**Manoel Theatre, Old Theatre Street, Valletta**

Several remains were found during internal rehabilitation works for the installation of a ventilation system and a new seating within the theatre's platea. The uncovered features and stratified deposits pertain to the construction phase of the Knights theatre and earlier remains which formed part of the external areas and possible garden of the Priory of Navarre's house. The pre-theatre structural remains include torba floorings, a truncated well, tree pits, and a blocked access to a possible underlying cellar. Other uncovered structural remains are related to the alterations carried out at the theatre in the 19th Century. A full archaeological investigation was undertaken to excavate and document these remains. These remains were conserved in situ.

**62/63, Triq Birzebbuga, Birzebbuga**

During monitored works two circular rock-cuts, possibly silos, were discovered at the boundary of the site with one of these features partially extending under the third party property. A full investigation and documentation of the site was carried out. The cart ruts were preserved in situ.

**55, Palazzino, Old Bakery Street, Valletta**

During the rehabilitation of an eighteenth century Baroque house in Triq l-Ifran, excavations revealed several features beneath the courtyard and at basement level. The discovered features are related to the earlier phases of this historic building. These remains include several phases of canals connected to an extensive system of drainage channels, a partially built well shaft and stratified deposits of domestic material within the cellar. During an earlier intervention undertaken in 2016, the uncovered concealed cellar had its roof supported on a series of arches. These features were documented and conserved in situ.

### **St. Paul's Missionary College, Rabat**

During an archaeological evaluation in relation to a proposed car park at the St. Paul's Missionary College School several rock-cut features were uncovered. So far the site revealed numerous agricultural trenches, elongated trenches which suggest possible rock cutting and a stretch of masonry with associated stratified deposits. A full investigation and documentation of the site is being done.

### **St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta**

Archaeological investigations in relation to the new Museum of St. John's Co-Cathedral began within the courtyard in Merchant Street. During these investigations several trenches were opened revealing quarried edges, the foundations of a masonry wall pertaining to the botteghe along Merchant Street and other structural remains belonging to a room built along Bartolott Crypt in ca 1880s. The site is still under investigation.

### **Piazza Tritoni, Valletta**

The resurfacing works undertaken in Piazza Tritoni revealed a series of historic fortification walls and corresponding ditches dateable to the early phases of the city's construction. The remains were investigated throughout the project providing enough information to understand the original layout of the ravelline which formed part of the mid-eighteenth century Valletta land front works. These fortifications were destroyed during the nineteenth and early twentieth century when the site was converted into an open area and then with the introduction of the Tritons Fountain. These remains have been preserved beneath the existing surface with the remains being integrated within the project while extensive parts were left visible for the enjoyment of the general public.

### **Is-Suq, Valletta**

Archaeological monitoring works have uncovered several remains which were identified as forming part of the Knight's period built market. The remains consisted of levelled bedrock, backfilled cisterns and surviving foundation walls. These features were extensively damaged by the demolition of the Knights market in 1859 to accommodate for the construction of foundations, service trenches, and a reservoir built for the Victorian market. These remains have been preserved and integrated within the new market project.

## 7. Cultural Heritage Policy Development

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The Superintendence also provides valuable policy guidance to Government and public entities in the cultural heritage sector. The following major initiatives were undertaken in the course of 2014.

### **Ratification of International Conventions Relating to Cultural Heritage**

Malta has not signed or ratified a number of important international conventions related to the field of cultural heritage. The conventions to be ratified refer to a number of sensitive areas in cultural heritage management. Subjects covered by these conventions range from the illegal trafficking of cultural goods, to the safeguarding of maritime cultural heritage and the intangible cultural heritage. Subjects covered by these conventions range from the illegal trafficking of cultural goods, to the safeguarding of maritime cultural heritage and the intangible cultural heritage. Ratification of these legal documents is becoming a high priority.

The Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government has requested the Superintendence to undertake a broad evaluation of these pending conventions and of their impact on Maltese legislation should they be adopted.

In 2014 the Superintendence has acquired the required legal support to carry out this evaluation. In particular the process involves three specific tasks:

- Execute background research on the international conventions still awaiting signature or ratification and their relationship with the Laws of Malta;
- Identification of which spheres of interest would be affected by Malta's signing of these international conventions;
- The preparation of a draft memo to cabinet outlining the benefits, obligations and effect on Maltese legislation related to cultural heritage

This review is currently ongoing and covers ten separate conventions by different international bodies:

## **Council of Europe**

- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), Valletta 1992 (Valletta Convention 1992);
- European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000 (Florence Convention 2000);
- Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, Faro 2005 (Faro Convention 2005)

## **UNESCO**

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague 1954 (Hague Convention 1954);
- Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague 1954 (Hague Protocol 1954);
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, Paris 1970;
- Convention of the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, Paris 2001;
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Paris 2003;
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague 1999 (Hague 2<sup>nd</sup> Protocol 1999)

## **UNIDROIT**

- Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, Roma 1995

## **Participation on the Committee of Guarantee**

The Committee of Guarantee is set up by the Cultural Heritage Act with the function of coordinating actions by the cultural heritage bodies operating in Malta and to provide high level advice to the Minister on cultural heritage issues. The new Committee was set up in the course of 2014 and has been convening regularly, with

meetings held at least once a month. The Superintendent of Cultural Heritage is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The Superintendence provides both technical and policy guidance to the Committee on a number of issues. The main areas of collaboration between the Superintendence and the Committee of Guarantee include:

- The process of revision and reform of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002;
- The setting up of the Heritage fund;
- The organisation of the National Forum for Cultural Heritage. At the Forum for 2016 the Superintendent made a presentation of the work undertaken by the Superintendence in 2015

## **Collaboration with the Office of the Permanent Delegation of Malta to UNESCO**

Throughout 2014 the Superintendence has also collaborated closely with the Office of the Permanent Delegation of Malta to UNESCO (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion).

In particular the Superintendence has provided the Office of the Permanent Delegation with technical and policy guidance and support relating to the Maltese properties listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Monuments – the City of Valletta, the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum and the Megalithic Temples.

The Superintendence has also provided additional support to the Office of the Permanent Delegation by participating in two of its technical working groups:

- Mdina UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Committee
- Ċittadella UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Committee

These committees are tasked with preparing the technical dossier and application by the Maltese Government to UNESCO for the recognition of these two historic cities as World Heritage Monuments.